

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ATHENS 00436 211818Z

70

ACTION NEA-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15

EUR-25 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 EB-11 AID-20 MC-02 ACDA-19

IGA-02 AEC-11 OMB-01 DRC-01 /184 W

----- 037847

R 211720Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2221

INFO SECDEF

USNATO 1565

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 0436

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, GR, US

SUBJ: AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON MINISTER OF DEFENSE

SUMMARY: AMBASSADOR'S INITIAL CALL ON DEFENSE MINISTER
LATSODIS GAVE OCCASION TO STRESS U.S. INTEREST IN GREEK
MILITARY RE-EQUIPMENT PROGRAMS AND TO MENTION BURDEN SHARING.
GENERALLY FAMILIAR WITH RE-EQUIPMENT PROGRAMS, LATSODIS
NOT YET IN POSITION TO EXERT INFLUENCE. HIS ANALYSIS OF
MBFR AND PREDECESSOR EXERCISES IN DISARMAMENT/DECONFRONTA-
TION WAS ESSENTIALLY NEGATIVE.

1. ON JAN 21 I PAID MY INITIAL CALL ON MINISTER OF
DEFENSE EFSTATHIOS LATSODIS. AFTER A BRIEF INTRODUCTORY
EXCHANGE OF CONVICTIONS THAT A CONTINUED CLOSE SECURITY
RELATIONSHIP WAS ESSENTIAL TO BOTH OUR COUNTRIES, I NOTED
THAT JUST A WEEK BEFORE I HAD HAD A VERY USEFUL EXCHANGE
WITH FOREIGN MINISTER TETENES ON SOUDA BAY AND RELATED
ISSUES. I STATED MY HOPE THAT AN AGREEMENT ON SOUDA AIRFIELD
COULD BE ACHIEVED WITHIN A REASONABLY SHORT TIME AND NOTED
THE IMPORTANCE OF HOMEPORTING IN GENERAL. HE INDICATED
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ATHENS 00436 211818Z

AN AWARENESS OF THIS MEETING AND EXPRESSED HIS OWN FEELING

THAT IT WAS AN IMPORTANT PROGRAM WHICH "UNDER SUITABLE CONDITIONS" SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO A RESOLUTION.

2. TURNING TO THE NEEDS OF THE GREEK DEFENSE ESTABLISHMENT, I COMMENTED ON THE VIGOROUS ROLE WHICH JUSMAGG PLAYED IN ADVISING AND FACILITATING THE ACTIVITIES OF THE HELLENIC FORCES. I REFERRED TO THE AVAILABILITY OF A4D'S AS REPLACEMENT FOR OBSOLESCEMENT F84'S. I SUGGESTED THAT WITH APPROPRIATE UPDATING THIS AIRCRAFT COULD SERVE THE NEEDS OF THE HAF QUITE NICELY. LATSODIS REPLIED THAT HE KNEW THIS MATTER WAS UNDER CONSIDERATION IN THE HAF.

3. I REFERRED TO THE HN DESIRE TO ACQUIRE NEW ESCORT VESSELS, AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT GREECE WOULD OPT EITHER FOR THE FRIGATE PROPOSED BY TODD/EDO OR ANY OTHER AMERICAN ALTERNATIVE WHICH MIGHT LEND ITSELF TO THE NEEDS OF THE HN. LATSODIS AGAIN COMMENTED THAT THIS PROGRAM WAS IN THE HANDS OF THE SERVICE CONCERNED.

4. HAVING DISCUSSED THE M-16 WITH HIS PREDECESSOR, I SOUGHT TO REINFORCE THAT APPROACH BY STRESSING AGAIN THE ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR OF GREECE OPTING FOR THE STANDARD SHOULDER WEAPON OF THE US MILITARY FORCES. I MENTIONED ITS CONSIDERABLE MERITS AND FOUND A SYMPATHETIC LISTENER IN LATSODIS WHO WAS, HIMSELF, COMMANDER, HELLENIC FIRST ARMY. ALTHOUGH HE SAID THE MATTER WAS UNDER STUDY BY HA TECHNICIANS, HE OBVIOUSLY TOOK SOME INTEREST IN THIS ISSUE AND SEEMED TO REGARD THE M-16 AS A VERY ATTRACTIVE ALTERNATIVE IN THE PROJECTED RE-EQUIPPING OF THE HA.

5. IN HOPES OF ELICITING FURTHER COMMENTS ON THE GREEK POSITION, I MENTIONED THE DOCUMENT RECENTLY SUBMITTED BY TURKEY IN THE NATO DISCUSSIONS OF MBFR. ALTHOUGH NOT IMMEDIATELY FAMILIAR WITH THE SPECIFICS OF THIS PROPOSAL, HE CHARACTERIZED IT AS UNREALISTIC WHEN I DESCRIBED ITS THRUST. STATING THAT MBFR WAS REALLY A CENTRAL EUROPEAN CONCERN HE EXPRESSED HIS PERSONAL VIEW THAT IT WAS AN UNREALISTIC EXERCISE. EXPANDING ON THIS THEME, HE CLAIMED EXTENSIVE FAMILIARITY WITH DISARMAMENT PROPOSALS DATING

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ATHENS 00436 211818Z

FROM 1945 AND CHARACTERIZED THEM AS ALL UNREALISTIC EXCEPT FOR PRESIDENT EISENHOWER'S OPEN SKIES PROPOSAL. WE AGREED THAT THE EXISTENCE OF ARMS DID NOT CREATE POLITICAL PROBLEMS BUT RATHER THE REVERSE WAS THE CASE.

6. HE CONCLUDED HIS DISCUSSION OF THE FUTILITY OF DISARMAMENT PROPOSALS BY NOTING THAT MBFR WAS DOUBTLESS A POLITICAL NECESSITY. I TOOK THIS OCCASION TO REFER TO THE BURDEN

SHARING PROGRAM DESIGNED TO FORESTALL PRECIPITATE
WITHDRAWALS OF US FORCES AND NOTED THE IMPORTANCE OF
ACHIEVING SUCCESS IN THIS REGARD. LATSLOUDIS REFLECTED
THE EXPECTED GREEK POSITION IN AGREEING ON THE ESSENTIALITY
OF BURDEN SHARING BUT IN CHARACTERIZING IT AS SOMETHING
THE WEALTHIER NATO COUNTRIES SHOULD DO. HE EXPRESSED
GREECE'S SUPPORT FOR PROGRAMS WHICH WOULD CAUSE THESE OTHER
NATO NATIONS TO SHARE THE BURDEN WITH THE UNITED STATES.

7. I FOUND LATSLOUDIS SYMPATHETIC, AWARE OF OUR MUTUAL NEEDS,
AND REASONABLY WELL-INFORMED ON SPECIFIC ISSUES. HIS
GENERAL FAMILIARITY WITH STRATEGIC ISSUES SHOULD HELP HIM
IN DPC MINISTERIAL MEETINGS, BUT THE POSITION OF MINISTER OF
DEFENSE IS STILL MORE HONORIFIC THAN SUBSTANTIVE IN THE GREEK
DEFENSE ESTABLISHMENT.

TASCA

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY BUDGET, ARMED FORCES, DISARMAMENT, MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS, MILITARY BASES, PORT FACILITIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ATHENS00436
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740129/aaaabass.tel
Line Count: 131
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 MAY 2002 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <27-Aug-2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON MINISTER OF DEFENSE SUMMARY: AMBASSADOR'S INITIAL CALL ON DEFENSE MINISTER
TAGS: MILI, GR, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005